

Weekly Chemawa American

VOL. 11

JUNE 4, 1909.

NO. 50

CIRCULAR

Concerning Transfer of Indian Pupils.

Superintendents of Indian Schools,

Gentlemen: You are all aware of the policy of permitting Indian parents to choose the schools to which they will send their children, the only requirement being that they place them in some good school and keep them there in regular attendance.

The wisdom of this policy has been proved by the additional interest taken by the Indians in educational matters, and it will be continued. At some places, however, there has been a tendency to overstep the privilege and disregard the legitimate authority of the Reservation Superintendent by sending to non-reservation schools children of any age and stage of advancement.

Non-reservation schools are for pupils over fourteen and not for the younger ones, who should be kept in the day schools, if there are day schools within reach; in the public schools, if convenient; or in the reservation boarding schools. The reservation schools are primarily for the younger children. Day schools, of course, should take precedence

over the boarding schools and parents living within a reasonable distance of such schools are expected to place the children under fourteen in them, unless there are special reasons why they should be placed in the boarding school.

The basis of this division of clientage is obvious: Our non-reservation schools are expensively equipped; the industrial features are conspicuous; the curriculum is not suited to young children, who are too small to fit well into the industrial or domestic program and who in some respects need more individual care than is essential to the older pupils. The reservation schools are convenient to parents; the parents may visit the boarding schools occasionally and in case of sickness be near the children or take them home. The life is somewhat less confining and the discipline is less exacting than it can properly be in a non-reservation school; the expense of transportation is absent. When old enough to benefit by the industrial course the non-reservation schools are open to healthy children.

Your attention is directed to the following provision in the Indian Appropri-

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